Listing and Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace the claims that were published in the PCT Application and the International Preliminary Examination Report:

1. (currently amended) Method for mapping a hierarchical data format with descriptors ~~(1, 10, 11)~~ to a relational database management system, including the steps of:
- separating the descriptors ~~(1, 10, 11)~~ into portions of a plurality of common formats;
- storing the portions of the plurality of common formats in relations ~~(20, 21, 22...)~~ in the relational database; and
- storing information describing the descriptor structure in the relations ~~(20, 21, 22...)~~ together with the portions of the plurality of common formats;

wherein the information describing the descriptor structure includes an indicator for the next upper hierarchical level of portions of a common format within the descriptors ~~(1, 10, 11)~~.

2. (currently amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein the information describing the descriptor structure includes descriptor numbers and relative and/or absolute positions of portions of a common format within the descriptors ~~(1, 10, 11)~~.

3. (currently amended) Method according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, further comprising the step of providing independent relations ~~(22, 23,...,32, 33,...)~~ for the common formats.

4. (currently amended) Method according to ~~one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, further comprising the step of storing a descriptor index ~~(40)~~ in the relational database, the descriptor index ~~(40)~~ allowing to store additional information for every descriptor.

5. (currently amended) Method according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the descriptor index ~~(40)~~ comprises at least descriptor numbers, absolute positions of the descriptors ~~(1, 10, 11)~~ within the relations ~~(20, 21, 22...)~~ and/or unique identifiers ~~(4)~~ for the descriptors ~~(1, 10, 11)~~.

6. (currently amended) Method according to ~~anyone of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the hierarchical data format comprising descriptors ~~(1, 10, 11)~~ corresponds to the Extensible Markup Language.

7. (currently amended) Method according to ~~anyone of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the common formats comprise at least elements, attributes and text.

8. (currently amended) Method according to claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the common format text is divided into string values and integer values.

9. (currently amended) Method according to claim 7 ~~or 8, characterized in that~~ wherein the common formats further comprise namespace information ~~(2)~~.

10. (currently amended) Database model for mapping a hierarchical data format comprising descriptors ~~(1, 10, 11)~~ to a relational database management system, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein it uses a method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1.

11. (currently amended) Apparatus for reading from and/or writing to recording media, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein it uses a method according to ~~any of claims 1-9~~ claim 1 or a database model ~~according to claim 10~~ for mapping a hierarchical data format comprising descriptors ~~(1, 10, 11)~~ to a relational database management system.